

Message Text

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70

ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 DHA-02 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 /082 W

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P R 031425Z AUG 76

FM AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5073

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USMISSION USUN NY

C O N F I D E N T I A L PRETORIA 3414

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, SF, UNSC

SUBJ: NAMIBIA

1. BRITISH AMBASSADOR SIR DAVID SCOTT CALLED ON ME THIS AFTERNOON TO DISCUSS HANDLING OF THE NAMIBIA QUESTION. RECALLING A CONVERSATION THAT WE HAD WITH THE FRENCH AMBASSADOR TEN DAYS AGO, HE SAID THAT IN LONDON THE FRENCH HAD INQUIRED ABOUT HMG WILLINGNESS TO MAKE ANOTHER TRI-PARTITE DEMARCHE BEFORE THE UNSC DEBATE ON AUGUST 31. SIR DAVID INDICATED THAT HIS GOVERNMENT WAS AGAINST SUCH AN INITIATIVE AT THIS TIME. HE CITED THREE REASONS: (A) GIVEN PAST EXPERIENCE, THERE WAS NOT ENOUGH TIME TO DEVELOP A MEANINGFUL, NEW INITIATIVE; (B) IT MIGHT BE MORE ADVANTAGEOUS TO HOLD A NEW TRI-PARTITE APPROACH IN RESERVE FOR A MORE PRODUCTIVE OPPORTUNITY; AND (C) THE BRITISH FOR DOMESTIC POLITICAL REASONS DID NOT WANT TO BE PUBLICLY ASSOCIATED WITH THE FRENCH AT THIS PARTICULAR TIME BECAUSE OF THE KOEBERG PROJECT. HE HASTENED TO ADD THAT THE THIRD REASON WAS NOT PASSED TO THE FRENCH.

2. SIR DAVID ASKED WHAT VIEWS I HAD ON THE SUBJECT.

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I TOLD HIM THAT I HAD HEARD NOTHING FROM WASHINGTON ON

POSSIBLE CONCERTED ACTION IN ADVANCE OF THE UNSC DEBATE,
AND IN THE ABSENCE OF SUCH GUIDANCE I PREFERRED NOT TO
VENTURE ANY PERSONAL OPINION. SIR DAVID THEN SAID
HMG BELIEVED THAT IT MIGHT BE USEFUL FOR THE THREE
GOVERNMENTS TO GET TOGETHER ON TACTICS TO BE FOLLOWED
IN THE SECURITY COUNCIL AND, ON INSTRUCTIONS FROM
LONDON, HAD SO SUGGESTED TO OUR FRENCH COLLEAGUE. HE
WAS NOT SURE WHAT BEST VENUE FOR SUCH TALKS WOULD BE,
ALTHOUGH HE WAS INCLINED TO USE PARIS FOR THIS PURPOSE.

3. ACTION REQUESTED: WOULD APPRECIATE KNOWING
DEPARTMENT'S AND USUN'S CURRENT THINKING ON HOW TO
HANDLE THE NAMIBIAN QUESTION WHEN IT COMES UP AT THE
END OF THE MONTH.
BOWDLER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: POLITICAL SETTLEMENT, DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS, INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 03 AUG 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: coburnhl
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976PRETOR03414
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760298-1165
From: PRETORIA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760892/aaaadcvd.tel
Line Count: 76
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: coburnhl
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 20 APR 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <20 APR 2004 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <09 SEP 2004 by coburnhl>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: NAMIBIA
TAGS: PFOR, SF, WA, UNSC, (SCOTT, DAVID)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006